
New Democrats support collective bargaining rights - Jack Layton reply

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Thank you for contacting me regarding the recent labour negotiations and subsequent lockout of Canada Post employees. Please know that New Democrats support collective bargaining rights and remain committed to supporting the rights of all working people to work in a safe environment for a fair rate of pay.

We share the deep disappointment of so many over the actions by the Harper Conservatives on this file. Their government's effort to dampen the hard-fought right for workers to bargain collectively in a free and fair manner is shameful. As with the recent Air Canada labour negotiations, the Prime Minister has signaled that if employers cannot get what they want at the bargaining table, never mind, Ottawa will legislate it for them! The bottom line is this: if the Conservatives felt that Canada Post was so integral to the economy, then why did they support the executives who put the padlocks on the doors in the first place?

I would also like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of the postal workers who throughout this process bargained in good faith and fought the good fight to protect collective bargaining rights. During the debate around Bill C-6, I raised many of the concerns that I have heard from postal workers who contacted me over these past few months. You can read my speech by visiting: <http://tinyurl.com/68qouv4>.

Going forward, our team of New Democrats will continue to oppose any legislation that favours forcing workers back-to-work, replacement workers, or the undermining of the fundamental right to collective bargaining.

Again, I appreciate hearing from you. Feel free to share my response with anyone you feel may be interested.

All the best,

Hon. Jack Layton, P.C., M.P. (Toronto-Danforth)
Leader of the Official Opposition

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